

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 03212

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, US
SUBJECT: NATO FORCE GOALS FOR US

REF: (A) STATE 49455 (DTG 250127Z FEB 78), (B) STATE 78943
(DTG 280015Z MAR 78), (C) STATE 62921 (DTG 110021Z MAR 78),
(D) USNATO 2271 (DTG 041427Z MAR 78)

1. AT "TRILATERAL" DISCUSSION OF 1979-1984 FORCE PROPOSALS
FOR THE US ON MARCH 29, US REP (BADER) PRESENTED THE POSI-
TIONS OUTLINED IN REFS A, B AND C, INDICATING THOSE PRO-
POSALS (SUCH AS AM04, AM05 AND AM07) ON WHICH THE US HAD
RESERVATIONS AND THOSE (SUCH AS AM03 AND AM06) WHICH THE
US COULD NOT ACCEPT. THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF (IS) WILL
LIST ALL THE CONTENTIOUS PROPOSALS IN AN ANNEX TO THE US
COUNTRY CHAPTER WITH THE SPECIFIC US RESERVATIONS/QUALIFI-
CATIONS OUTLINED ALONG THE LINES OF REF A.

2. ECONOMIC CHALLENGE. IN THE COURSE OF THE TRILATERAL
DISCUSSIONS, FORCE PROPOSALS AM03 (ASW SUPPORT SHIPS) AND
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EM08 (ADDITIONAL NUCLEAR ATTACK SUBMARINES), THOUGH RE-
TAINED AS DRAFT GOALS SUBJECT TO DRC CONSIDERATION, WERE
MODIFIED TO REDUCE THE COSTS INDICATED FOR THE 1979-1984
PLANNING PERIOD BY ABOUT \$5.5 BILLION. (RATIONALE FOR
THIS REDUCTION WAS LIKELIHOOD THAT ONLY A PORTION OF TOTAL
PROGRAM COSTS WOULD ACTUALLY BE EXPENDED DURING THE PLAN-
NING PERIOD.) THE OVERALL ECONOMIC CHALLENGE ABOVE NA-

TIONAL PLANS WAS THEREBY LOWERED TO ABOUT 0.5 PERCENT. AS A RESULT, THIS WILL SET THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE US, AT THE FORTHCOMING MULTILATERAL (TENTATIVELY SLATED FOR WEEK OF APRIL 10), TO PURSUE THE POSITION ON THE CHALLENGE OUTLINED IN REF B, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME REGISTERING THE SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS ON VARIOUS FORCE PROPOSALS PRESENTED IN REF A.

3. ADDITIONAL ISSUES RAISED.

. (A) AIR DEFENSE OF UK BASES. AFTER DESCRIBING THE DEFICIENCIES IN AIR DEFENSE OF US AIR ASSETS IN THE UK AND LACK OF BILATERAL PROGRESS IN REMEDYING THIS SITUATION, SHAPE REP, AT URGING OF IS, WILL PREPARE A NO-COST "STUDY PROPOSAL" DIRECTED AT BOTH THE US AND UK, URGING THE TWO COUNTRIES TO EXPLORE MEANS OF PROVIDING ADEQUATE SHORT- AND MEDIUM-RANGE AIR DEFENSE OF AIR ASSETS IN THE UK. COMMENT: THIS SEEMS A REASONABLE RECOMMENDATION, AND, WITH WASHINGTON'S CONCURRENCE, WE WOULD PROPOSE TO ACCEPT IT AS A FORCE GOAL. END COMMENT.

. (B) MPA AT SIGONELLA. IS AND MILITARY REPS REQUESTED FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF US PLANS REGARDING BASING OF MPA AT SIGONELLA, BEYOND THE GENERAL RESPONSE CONTAINED IN PARA 3 OF REF A.

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. (C) NAVAL SHIPBUILDING PROGRAM. IS AND SACLANT REPS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE UNCERTAINTY AND REPORTED CUT-BACKS IN THE NAVAL SHIPBUILDING PROGRAM FROM THAT REPORTED IN DPQ(77), REFERRING TO RECENT PRESS REPORTS OF A 50 PERCENT REDUCTION, AND PRESSED THE US REP FOR MORE INFORMATION THAN CONTAINED IN REF A. COMMENT: WE ARE SURE TO RECEIVE PROBING QUESTIONS ON THIS ISSUE AT THE US MULTILATERAL AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION THAT WE MIGHT SHARE WITH ALLIES. END COMMENT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE ON THE QUESTIONS RAISED IN PARA 3 ABOVE BY OPENING OF BUSINESS, APRIL 10. BENNETT

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